



#5

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 22, 2002.*

Alex Martinez

Applicant : Jacques Prodel  
Application No. : 09/997,264  
Filed : November 28, 2001  
Title : INSTALLATION FOR THE CIRCULATION OF PART-CARRYING  
PALLETES AND A PROCESS FOR THE ASSEMBLY THEREOF  
Grp./Div. : N/A  
Examiner : N/A  
Docket No. : 45976/DBP/N75

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
April 22, 2002

Commissioner:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the title please amend the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority of French Patent Application No. 0015516, filed on November 30, 2000.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1-12. Pending claims 1 to 12 follow.

1. (Amended) An installation for the circulation of part-carrying pallets, comprising a support frame for supporting modules for circulation of the pallets, in which said support frame comprises at least one vertical frame arrangement formed by a rigid mecano-welded structure

from standard profile members, as well as boxes each formed by a mecano-welded structure from standard profile members and capable of being removably fixed on respective sides of said vertical frame arrangement, and each of said boxes comprises an upper surfaced portion capable of receiving at least one module and a lower portion provided with adjustable feet for adjusting the horizontality of said upper surfaced portion.

2. (Amended) An installation according to claim 1, wherein said standard profile members of said vertical frame arrangement and said standard profile members of said boxes are commercially available profile members of steel of type NIP.

3. (Amended) An installation according to claim 1, wherein said vertical frame arrangement comprises a lower horizontal profile member, an upper horizontal profile member, an intermediate horizontal profile member and two vertical profile members connected to the respective ends of said horizontal profile members.

4. (Amended) An installation according to claim 2, wherein said lower horizontal profile member extends substantially at the level of the lower portion of said boxes without however resting on the ground, and wherein said intermediate horizontal profile member extends substantially at the level of the upper surfaced portion of said boxes, and wherein said upper profile member extends at a spacing with respect to the level of said upper surfaced portion of said boxes.

5. (Amended) An installation according to claim 1, wherein said vertical frame arrangement is provided on each side with six fixing plates which comprise four box fixing plates capable of being removably fixed to four homologous fixing plates forming part of a box and two frame arrangement fixing plates capable of being removably fixed on an adjacent vertical frame arrangement.

6. (Amended) An installation according to claim 5, wherein said six fixing plates disposed on one side of said frame arrangement extend horizontally and comprise two lower plates fixed at the level of said lower profile member of said frame arrangement, two intermediate plates fixed

at the level of said intermediate profile member and two upper plates fixed at the level of said upper profile member of said frame arrangement.

7. (Amended) An installation according to claim 6, wherein said six fixing plates are co-planar and welded to said vertical frame arrangement and comprise three plates which extend beyond one of said two vertical profile members and three plates which extend beyond said other vertical profile member.

8. (Amended) An installation according to claim 5, wherein said box fixing plates forming part of said frame arrangement are capable of being fixed respectively against said four homologous plates of a box by way of fixing means of the screw type and with the interposition of spacer plates.

9. (Amended) An installation according to claim 5, wherein said fixing plates of said box are co-planar and welded to said box.

10. (Amended) An installation according to claim 1, wherein said box comprises four profile members forming said lower portion and supporting said adjustable feet, four profile members forming said upper surfaced portion and four vertical profile members connecting said lower portion and said upper surfaced portion.

11. (Amended) A process for assembling an installation according to claim 1, comprising the following operations:

- a) assembling said frame arrangement on the ground;
- b) placing said frame arrangement vertically and holding it vertically;
- c) presenting said boxes on respective sides of said vertical frame arrangement and fixing them thereto;
- d) repeating if necessary foregoing operations a) through c) for other frame arrangements and boxes to form said support frame of said installation;
- e) assembling items of equipment or accessories to said support frame formed in that way; and

f) regulating the level by acting on said adjustable feet of said boxes.

12. (Amended) A process according to claim 11, comprising the following supplementary operation:

g) fixing said modules] on said upper surfaced portions of said boxes].

### REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in the application. Claims 1-12 have been amended. It is respectfully requested that the foregoing preliminary amendment be entered prior to examination.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By

D. Bruce Prout  
D. Bruce Prout

Reg. No. 20,958

626/795-9900

DBP/aam

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

As originally added by amendment dated November 28, 2001:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority of French Patent Application No. 0015516, filed on November 30, 2000, ~~the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herewith~~.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An installation for the circulation of part-carrying pallets~~[-(12)]~~, comprising a support frame~~[-(12)]~~ for supporting modules~~[-(14)]~~ for circulation of the pallets, ~~characterised in that the~~ in which said support frame~~[-(10)]~~ comprises at least one vertical frame arrangement~~[(16)]~~ formed by a rigid mecano-welded structure from standard profile members~~[-(20, 22, 24, 26)]~~, as well as boxes~~[-(18)]~~ each formed by a mecano-welded structure from standard profile members~~[(42, 46, 48)]~~ and capable of being removably fixed on respective sides of~~[-the]~~ said vertical frame arrangement~~[-(16)]~~, and~~[-that]~~ each of~~[-the]~~ said boxes~~[-(18)]~~ comprises an upper surfaced portion~~[(44)]~~ capable of receiving at least one module ~~[(14)]~~ and a lower portion~~[-(40)]~~ provided with adjustable feet~~[-(50)]~~ for adjusting the horizontality of~~[-the]~~ said upper surfaced portion.

2. (Amended) An installation ~~[as set forth in]~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that the~~, wherein said standard profile members~~[-(20, 22, 24, 26)]~~ of~~[-the]~~ said vertical frame arrangement~~[-(16)]~~ and~~[-the]~~ said standard profile members~~[-(42, 46, 48)]~~ of~~[-the]~~ said boxes ~~[(18)]~~ are commercially available profile members of steel of type NIP.

3. (Amended) An installation ~~[as set forth in]~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that the~~, wherein said vertical frame arrangement~~[-(16)]~~ comprises a lower horizontal profile member~~[(20)]~~, an upper horizontal profile member~~[-(22)]~~, an intermediate horizontal profile member~~[-(24)]~~ and two vertical profile members~~[-(26)]~~ connected to the respective ends of~~[-the]~~ said horizontal profile members~~[-(20, 22, 24)]~~.

4. (Amended) An installation~~[as set forth in claim 2 characterised in that the]~~ according to claim 2, wherein said lower horizontal profile member~~[(20)]~~ extends substantially at the level of the lower portion~~[(40)]~~ of~~[the]~~ said boxes without however resting on the ground,~~[that the]~~ and wherein said intermediate horizontal profile member~~[(24)]~~ extends substantially at the level of the upper surfaced portion~~[(44)]~~ of~~[the]~~ said boxes, and~~[that the]~~ wherein said upper profile member~~[(22)]~~ extends at a spacing with respect to the level of~~[the]~~ said upper surfaced portion~~[(44)]~~ of~~[the]~~ said boxes.

5. (Amended) An installation~~[as set forth in one of claims 3 and 4 characterised in that the]~~ according to claim 1, wherein said vertical frame arrangement~~[(16)]~~ is provided on each side with six fixing plates~~[(28, 28, 30, 30, 32, 32)]~~ which comprise four box fixing plates~~[(28, 28, 30, 30)]~~ capable of being removably fixed to four homologous fixing plates~~[(54)]~~ forming part of a box~~[(18)]~~ and two frame arrangement fixing plates~~[(32)]~~ capable of being removably fixed on an adjacent vertical frame arrangement.

6. (Amended) An installation~~[as set forth in]~~ according to claim 5~~[characterised in that the]~~, wherein said six fixing plates~~[(28, 28, 30, 30, 32, 32)]~~ disposed on one side of~~[the]~~ said frame arrangement~~[(16)]~~ extend horizontally and comprise two lower plates~~[(28)]~~ fixed at the level of~~[the]~~ said lower profile member~~[(20)]~~ of~~[the]~~ said frame arrangement, two intermediate plates~~[(30)]~~ fixed at the level of~~[the]~~ said intermediate profile member~~[(24)]~~ and two upper plates~~[(32)]~~ fixed at the level of~~[the]~~ said upper profile member~~[(22)]~~ of~~[the]~~ said frame arrangement.

7. (Amended) An installation~~[as set forth in one of claims 5 and 6 characterised in that the]~~ according to claim 6, wherein said six fixing plates~~[(28, 28, 30, 30, 32, 32)]~~ are co-planar and welded to~~[the]~~ said vertical frame arrangement~~[(16)]~~ and comprise three plates~~[(28, 30, 32)]~~ which extend beyond one of~~[the]~~ said two vertical profile members~~[(26)]~~ and three plates ~~[(28, 30, 32)]~~ which extend beyond~~[the]~~ said other vertical profile member~~[(26)]~~.

8. (Amended) An installation~~[as set forth in one of claims 5 through 7 characterised in that the]~~ according to claim 5, wherein said box fixing plates~~[(28, 28, 30, 30)]~~ forming part of~~[the]~~ said frame arrangement~~[(16)]~~ are capable of being fixed respectively against~~[the]~~ said four

homologous plates~~[-(54)]~~ of a box by way of fixing means of the screw type and with the interposition of spacer plates~~[-(57)]~~.

9. (Amended) An installation~~[-as set forth in one of claims 5 through 8 characterised in that the]~~ according to claim 5, wherein said fixing plates~~[-(54)]~~ of~~[-the]~~ said box~~[-(18)]~~ are co-planar and welded to~~[-the]~~ said box.

10. (Amended) An installation~~[-as set forth in one of claims 1 through 9 characterised in that the]~~ according to claim 1, wherein said box~~[-(18)]~~ comprises four profile members~~[-(42)]~~ forming~~[-the]~~ said lower portion~~[-(40)]~~ and supporting~~[-the]~~ said adjustable feet~~[-(50)]~~, four profile members~~[-(46)]~~ forming~~[-the]~~ said upper surfaced portion~~[-(44)]~~ and four vertical profile members~~[-(48)]~~ connecting~~[-the]~~ said lower portion~~[-(40)]~~ and~~[-the]~~ said upper surfaced portion~~[-(44)]~~.

11. (Amended) A process for assembling an installation~~[-as set forth in one of the preceding claims]~~ according to claim 1, comprising the following operations:

- a) assembling~~[-the]~~ said frame arrangement~~[-(16)]~~ on the ground;
- b) placing~~[-the]~~ said frame arrangement vertically and holding it vertically;
- c) presenting~~[-the]~~ said boxes~~[-(18)]~~ on respective sides of~~[-the]~~ said vertical frame arrangement~~[-(16)]~~ and fixing them thereto;
- d) repeating if necessary foregoing operations a) through c) for other frame arrangements and boxes to form~~[-the]~~ said support frame~~[-(10)]~~ of~~[-the]~~ said installation;
- e) assembling items of equipment or accessories~~[-(60, 62)]~~ to~~[-the]~~ said support frame formed in that way; and
- f) regulating the level by acting on~~[-the]~~ said adjustable feet~~[-(50)]~~ of~~[-the]~~ said boxes~~[-(18)]~~.

12. (Amended) A process~~[-as set forth in]~~ according to claim 11~~[-characterised in that it comprises]~~, comprising the following supplementary operation:

- g) fixing~~[-the]~~ said modules~~[-(14)]~~ on~~[-the]~~ said upper surfaced portions~~[-(44)]~~ of~~[-the]~~ said boxes~~[-(18)]~~.